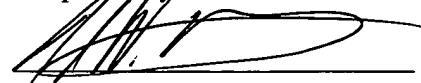


**REMARKS**

Before examination on the merits of the above-identified application, please enter the present Preliminary Amendment. By the present amendment, claims 1-9 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 10-14 are the claims which were withdrawn from the parent application, Serial No. 09/907,087, in view of a restriction requirement dated December 2, 2002. Early and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted



By: Thomas W. McNally  
Reg. No. 48,609  
Attorney for Applicants

F.CHAU & ASSOCIATES, LLP  
1900 Hempstead Turnpike, Suite 501  
East Meadow, New York 11554  
Telephone: (516) 357-0091  
Facsimile: (516) 357-0092